

The Honorable John Carney
Governor of the State of Delaware
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820 N. French Street
12th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

Representative Peter Schwartzkopf
Speaker of the House of Representatives
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

Senator David McBride
Senate President Pro Tempore
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

June 16th, 2020

Governor Carney, Speaker Schwartzkopf, and President Pro Tempore McBride,

We, the undersigned, comprising 38 organizations, faith communities, and businesses, representing over 103,000 members, customers, parishioners, and constituents, respectfully request that you work together to bring Senate Bill 250 to the floor for a vote in each chamber before the end of the legislative session this year, and vote to support it.

Senate Bill 250 will help ensure that the 495 Delaware workers that work in the solar industry, as well as those working in adjacent employment sectors, are able to maintain employment. If Senate Bill 250 does not pass, the current Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) will be frozen and the entire market for solar and other renewable energy resources could be sent into a state of uncertainty, impeding the state's economic recovery. Preventing this external disruption by the Public Service Commission to an otherwise thriving industry should be a top priority for the Delaware General Assembly this year.

Preventing the loss of current jobs is not enough - we also need to expand job creation in this field. Careers in renewable energy are expanding in states across the nation at a rapid rate. However, states that have a strong RPS are seeing the most consistent and strongest growth. Building up the clean energy industry in Delaware is one of the best ways we can come out of the pandemic stronger than we were before this unprecedented period. These are good-paying, reliable jobs that actually create and expand other good-paying jobs in connected sectors, including trades, manufacturing, and transportation.

We must also not ignore the lessons we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who live near facilities that pollute the air have been shown to be far more susceptible to COVID and have a far higher mortality rate. Air pollution from energy production in our region heavily contributes to the poor air quality rating we receive each year from the American Lung Association. Senate Bill 250 will spark further investment in clean energy production, which will lead to less fossil fuel-generated power over the next 15 years, reducing air pollution.

Finally, we must also come to terms with the inequitable history of renewable energy policy and who has benefited the most from these policies. Too often, low- and moderate-income, urban residents, and Black and Brown communities are left out of this conversation. Thus, those who would benefit the most from renewable energy often benefit the least. Senate Bill 250, with its inclusion of the Community Sustainable Energy Authorities Act, works to highlight and address

these inequities. By empowering communities to create solar projects that work for them, we are ensuring every community can have access to clean energy and green jobs.

Community Solar, as defined by Senate Bill 250, will make it possible for individuals to come together and partner with faith communities, small businesses, governmental entities, and non-profits to build up their communities. By allowing these community members to set the standards for their projects, such as local hiring requirements, programs for low- and moderate-income persons, and the size and location of the project, we are ensuring that local economies can flourish coming out of COVID-19.

This legislation has broad support and can have lasting benefits for Delawareans across the state, while at the same time protecting the rights of municipalities, counties, and local governments who do not want to participate.

This year has been devastating for our state and our nation. There is no doubt that the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent shutdowns are far-reaching. However, we must do what is possible to build back better than we were before and to act with urgency to prevent any further disruption. Senate Bill 250, filed by Senator Harris McDowell, helps to accomplish both of those goals. That is why we, the undersigned, are formally requesting that you work together to bring Senate Bill 250 to the floor for a vote in each chamber before the end of the legislative session this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,



Sherri Evans-Stanton, Chapter Director
Sierra Club Delaware Chapter



Jason Melrath, Editor
Blue Delaware



Beth Chajes, Delaware State Coordinator
Citizens' Climate Lobby



Nancy Willing, President
Civic League for New Castle County



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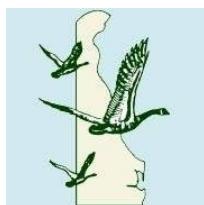
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Jeanette Swain, Treasurer
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DELAWARE CONCERNED RESIDENTS
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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Charlie Garlow, President
Delaware Electric Vehicle Association



Delaware Interfaith Power & Light, Inc.
A Religious Response to Climate Change
www.DelawareIPL.org

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